



Extra Special Edition

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Calhoun County's Exceptional Student Education Newsletter

A NEWSLETTER DESIGNED TO ASSIST FAMILIES IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF
EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN AND TO ENHANCE PARTNERSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS

Fall 2010

Congratulations

**Kimberly Todd
Carr School Parent**

Winner of \$100.00
Piggly Wiggly
Coupon Drawing
for completing
2009—2010
ESE Parent Survey

Disability His- tory and Awareness Weeks

**1st two weeks
of October
every year!**



Look what's new . . .

Starting now this newsletter can be found on your child's school website or the district website under School Newsletters. If for some reason you would like a paper copy sent to you, please contact Alicia Goodman at 850-674-8169 or email at alicia.goodman@calhounflschools.org.

School Web Sites:

www.calhounflschools.org

www.althaschool.org

www.blountstownelementary.org

www.blountstownhigh.org

www.blountstownmiddle.org

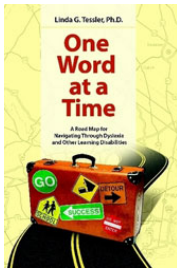
www.carrschool.org

On June 13, 2008, Governor Crist signed into law Senate Bill 856, creating section 10003.4205, Florida Statutes. The bill, called "Disability History and Awareness Instruction," requires school districts to designate the first two weeks of October of each year as Disability History and Awareness Weeks. The bill also allows schools to provide information about disability history and promote the awareness of the contributions of individuals with disabilities.

One of every five Americans is a person with a disability. A person may be born with a disability. A person may acquire a disability through an accident or illness. A person may acquire a disability simply as a part of growing older. Despite the fact that disability is a natural part of life, people with disabilities have not always had access to equal opportunities. Not until 1975, with the passage of the federal Education for All Handicapped Children Act (now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), did school-aged children with disabilities have a right to a free appropriate public education.

Florida started the first special education class in 1926. Since 1926, specially designed instruction and related services have expanded throughout Florida. Now, approximately 375,000 students identified with disabilities are participating in Florida's public education system and are graduating and going on to postsecondary education or employment.

Just for Parents



*One Word at a Time:
A Road Map for
Navigating Through
Dyslexia and other Learning
Disabilities*
By Linda G. Tessler

This book is written by a woman with a PH.D. and dyslexia. It's the story of her struggles and successes, and it also has lots of practical advice.

Sparky's Excellent Misadventures: My ADD Journal
by Phyllis Carpenter
and Marti Ford

This is a fictional daily journal kept by a little boy named Sparky. He talks about having behaviors he has trouble controlling because he has attention deficit disorder (ADD). The book really gets you inside his head and gives great insights on how others react to and treat him.



WEBSITES

<http://childdevelopmentinfo.com>

a website dedicated to providing information related to assisting parents in helping their children and teenagers to improve their learning and study skills. Techniques on how to develop motivation, attention, comprehension, organization and creativity are provided.



<http://autism.fsu.edu>

The Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD) provides support and assistance with the goal of optimizing the potential of people with autism and related disabilities. This site has lots of information about support groups and activities in the surrounding areas.

Check-out local educational activities for your child at Calhoun County Public Libraries (850) 674- 8773 or web page www.ccpl-fl.net and Calhoun County Extension Service (4-H programs) (850) 674-8353 or <http://calhoun.ifas.ufl.edu>

Child Health Insurance You Can Afford

Through Florida KidCare, the state of Florida offers health insurance for children birth through age 18, even if one or both parents are working. It includes four different parts. When you apply for the insurance, Florida KidCare will check which part your child may qualify for based on age and family income.

www.floridakidcare.org or 1-888-540-5437

Please join us for the ESE Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

This is a great opportunity to become more informed about what is happening in Calhoun County related to ESE supports and services. Please come and share your ideas and input.

Monday, October 18, 2010

5:00 p.m.

ESE District Office
Calhoun County Special Programs Office
16651 SE River Street, Blountstown

For more information contact Staci Williams
850-674-8734 Ext. 229 or
Alicia Goodman 850-674-8169.

Who's Who in the

Exceptional Student Education Department

- **Staci Williams**—Director of Exceptional Student Education—674-8734 Ext. 229
staci.williams@calhounflschools.org
- **Cindy Nichols**—ESE Staffing Specialist—674-8734 Ext. 227
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- **Jackie House**—ESE Staffing Assistant
674-8734 Ext. 228
jackie.house@calhounflschools.org



Back to School Tips

A new school year means a new grade, new teachers, new goals, and maybe even a new school! In order to help you and your child with special needs be as successful as you can be, here is a list of eight helpful back-to-school tips that we hope will make the transition into a new school year a little easier for you and your child.

- **Organize all that paperwork.** In the world of special education, there are lots of meetings, paperwork, and documentation to keep track of. Try to keep a family calendar of school events, special education meetings, conferences, etc. Setting up a binder or folder to keep your child's special education documentation, meeting notices, and IEPs can help you stay organized.
- **Start a communication log.** Keeping track of phone calls, e-mails, notes home, and meetings is important. Create a communication log for yourself in a notebook that is easily accessible. Note the dates, times, and nature of the communications you have.
- **Review your child's current IEP.** The IEP is the cornerstone of your child's educational program, so it's important that you have a clear understanding of it. Note when the IEP still "fits" your child's needs!
- **Relieve back-to-school jitters.** Talk to your child about exciting new classes, activities, and events that they can participate in during the new school year.
- **Keep everyone informed.** It's important that you and the school communicate early and often! If there is anything (concerns, changes, questions about the IEP) that you feel is important to share with the staff working with your child, don't hesitate to contact them!
- **Start before and after-school routines.** Discuss and plan the changes in you and your child's daily routine that will happen once school starts. Practice them and keep them going on the weekends to help make the school week run smoothly.
- **Stay up to date on special education news.** Being knowledgeable about your child's IEP and their disability can help you become a better advocate for your child.
- **Attend school events.** Take advantage of all the activities at your child's school. (Open House, Family Nights & Sporting Events)



CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

WILSON T. McCLELLAN, Superintendent

20859 Central Avenue E., Room G-20
BLOUNTSTOWN, FLORIDA 32424

ANNUAL NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

2010--2011 School Year

Under State and Federal regulations, the School Board is required to inform all parents of policies for protecting the confidentiality of child identification data. As part of this policy, the Exceptional Student Education Program must maintain confidentiality consistent with procedures developed by the school district. For your information, a copy of these procedures is available at each school and in the Superintendent's office. Your rights in regards to the educational records are listed at the end of this notice.

The School Board actively seeks to locate students with disabilities and maintains information on those students screened and identified as disabled. The term "exceptional student" includes the following categories of exceptionalities: intellectual disabilities, orthopedically impaired, speech impaired, language impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, visually impaired, emotional/behavioral disabled, specific learning disabled, gifted, dual-sensory impaired, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injured, developmentally delayed, other health impaired, and homebound or hospitalized.

Information gathered may include information related to the student's social, emotional, physical, psychological, academic, communication, behaviors, and abilities.

Information is collected through screening programs, checklists, teacher observations, standardized tests and from such individuals as parents, teachers, psychologists, audiologists, social workers, physicians, and other professional personnel, and the student him/herself.

Information is used to assist in the development of appropriate educational programs for students with disabilities and for reports to state and federal agencies.

Students are screened periodically for vision, hearing, speech, language, and academic achievement as the initial step in the process of identifying those students with suspected disabilities. If your child is identified as needing further testing, you will be notified of the content of the evaluation and the procedural safeguards will be made available to you.

Should you have any questions, please contact the guidance counselor at your child's school.

RIGHTS:

1. You may examine all records related to the referral, identification, evaluation or educational assignment of your child.
2. Explanations and interpretations of the records will be provided upon your request.
3. Copies of the records will be provided upon your request. Fees for cost of copies are based upon the actual cost of reproduction.
4. You may seek correction of your child's records if you believe they are not accurate.
5. You must give consent prior to the disclosure of certain information.
6. You may request a hearing if you and the school district can not reach an agreement regarding the information in your child's records.